



**GRAFTON TRAFFIC SAFETY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

30 Providence Road
Grafton, MA 01519
(508) 839-5335

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MEETING AGENDA
November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Grafton Police Department Training Room

Call meeting to order:

Present:

Accept minutes of meeting held on April 13, 2016:

New Business:

1. Request from Peter Ballantyne regarding traffic issues on East St.
2. Request from David Libby regarding speed, crosswalks and parking on South St.
3. Request from Amy Maguire for *No Turn on Red* sign on Millbury at Providence Rd.
4. Request from Scott Hogan to modify the intersection of North St. at Wesson St.
5. Concerns from Ann O'Sullivan regarding traffic turning from Rt. 140 on to North St.

Old Business:

Adjourn:

EXHIBIT 1

From: Peter Ballantyne <ballantyne_peter@verizon.net>
Date: Fri, May 20, 2016 at 1:03 PM
Subject: Re: Notice Town of Grafton Road Repairs
To: Doug Willardson <willardsond@grafton-ma.gov>

Why doesn't the town do more with designating streets as residential areas rather than for heavy traffic, with the yellow "30 limit" and "residential area" signs? At the very least, put up a sign to stop the big tractor-trailers from driving down East Street by mistake, thinking its Route 30. Almost every week we get one, and then they turn around on East Street in someone's driveway and come back down to the lights at 30!

I've requested better speed enforcement on East Street before and I guess it's just not feasible with police staffing we have. Some towns put up permanent radar-based "Your speed" units attached to power poles on sensitive streets - they can't be too expensive and they've got to have some impact on traffic speeds. Maybe if the police were visible at least during the main rush hours that would send a message to the people who commute through our area.

There are all sorts of "traffic calming" options that could be used, and I think they'd make a tremendous difference. As it is, Grafton is wide open for fast traffic - we really need a serious campaign.

Regards,
Peter

EXHIBIT 2

From: David Libbey <david.libbey@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 1, 2016 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Traffic Speed on South Street
To: Doug Willardson <willardsond@grafton-ma.gov>

Good morning, Doug. I'm sending this note to you as I imagine you will know where/how to direct it.

I am writing about the speed at which traffic moves on South Street. As a member of The Baptist Church (1 South Street) I often observe cars traveling south on South Street at excessive rates of speed. Usually this involves vehicles coming up Worcester Street that turn right past the Common and onto South Street. This past Sunday morning I saw several cars do exactly this, accelerating as they moved past the east side of the Common in front of the Library - and still accelerating as they passed the Jerome Wheelock triangle. I would estimate that they were traveling at 40+ mph as they passed the church. I am concerned that our church-goers (as well as families living on South Street) are at risk. Many of our congregation are exposed to this traffic since, through the generosity of the owners of the office building across South Street, we park in its two lots and then walk across South Street to the church. This past Sunday two of our older members were slowly crossing the street as yet another car zoomed up South Street - I had to literally carry one of them to safety.

I am not a traffic flow or safety expert, but it seems to me that the open expanse of pavement between the Common and the Library, which extends from Rt 140 to my church, encourages higher speed driving on South Street. There are no obstacles that would serve to naturally slow down the southbound drivers who seem to view that area as their personal speedway.

My observation is that the speeding problem has worsened since parking was prohibited on the east side of the Wheelock triangle. My understanding is that this was done due to concern about the sight line for drivers approaching the crosswalk at the north end of South Street (north of the triangle). Unfortunately, eliminating parking in that area also eliminates a potential 'traffic calming device'. My view is that we have perhaps dealt with one concern at the expense of worsening another.

Perhaps there is another solution that might address both issues:

1. Move the crosswalk 50 (or so) feet south on South Street, and
2. Allow parking again on at least the east side of the triangle.

The first would alter the crosswalk sight line for southbound traffic without adversely affecting other driver sight lines. The second would reinstate the traffic calming device, at least at times when the church is in use; this would be a highly desirable result. It would also create several more parking spots in the Center - also desirable.

Please let me know if I need to do anything to enable this concern and proposal to be considered. And thanks for getting this wherever it needs to go.

Regards,
Dave

EXHIBIT 3

On Mon, Jul 11, 2016 at 1:19 PM, Amy Maguire <amym3500@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Chief Crepeau,

As you are well aware, the intersection at Providence Road (Route 122) and Millbury Street is a safety concern. I would like to propose a small change that can be implemented quickly and at little cost.

I would like to recommend NO TURN ON RED signage be posted at the intersection of Providence Road (Route 122) southbound and Millbury Street to stop vehicles from turning right on red onto Millbury Street. First of all, there is no line of sight for these vehicles looking up the hill on Millbury Street due to a large evergreen tree at the corner. One of many examples is from this morning. A car turning right on red either could not see or didn't look and narrowly missed being crushed by a large rental box truck. The only way a driver can see if something is coming is to enter the intersection when it may not be safe to do so. Another issue with vehicles turning right on red at this intersection is that once the vehicle is in the intersection turning right, there is a narrow amount of room to make this move without interfering with oncoming traffic coming from Millbury Street and turning left onto Providence Road during their green light.

In addition, is it possible to keep brush/weeds clear from this same corner (where the traffic signal utility box is) to provide visibility to oncoming traffic? It would be safer to have visibility to see if traffic is stopping before entering the intersection blindly. Too many vehicles run this light. The line of sight was already reduced when the guardrail was installed and there is no visibility with the overgrown brush.

Thank you for your consideration.

EXHIBIT 4

Submitted on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 - 9:43am

Subject: General Comments to the Town

Message:

I would like to submit a suggestion to modify an intersection due to potential safety concerns, as I travel through beautiful Grafton daily. The intersection in question is the 3-way fork at North St. and Wesson St. I witness countless offenses of failing to yield where posted, and also the confusion of who has the right of way where yield signs are not posted. There is an issue of visibility when traveling west on Wesson St. and turning left (South) onto North St. I would like to suggest simply modifying the intersection to a regular perpendicular intersection, with ONE stop sign at the North end of North St., intersecting Wesson St., thus making simple left and right turns for all vehicles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your Name: Scott Hogan

Your E-mail Address: scogan9@yahoo.com

Street: 11 Cedar Hill Rd

City: Sutton

State: Massachusetts

Zipcode: 01590

EXHIBIT 5

From: <aosullivan@niblick-golf.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2016 at 9:04 AM

Subject: [Town of Grafton MA] 140 at North Street - Safety Committee

To: BOSGroup@graffton-ma.gov

Hello Town Administrator's Office,

Good morning,

At least once a week, I am nearly t-boned by a car coming off of 140 Grafton/Upton onto North Street. The painted yield sign is either not visible or ignored. Traffic comes around that corner so fast that they can't or don't look around the monument to see if anyone is coming up Millbury Street or off of 140 from down-town.

Last year, I witnessed a car come around the corner from 140, ignore the yield sign, and, in an effort to miss the bus that was stopped at the railroad tracks, swerve into oncoming traffic barely missing a car. It is clearly a safety issue that needs to be addressed. I have lived in town for over 10 years and that intersection has always been an issue. It is obviously a product of the 140 traffic coming into the common. Between the businesses at the common and the amount of kids that hang out at the common both in the summer and after school, the traffic issue at the common should be a priority for the town. People should be able to grab an ice cream with

their kids and relax on the common without worrying they will get hit crossing the street. The kids should be able to hang out at the common after school without having to dodge traffic at the ill place crosswalks across 140. We certainly don't want to loose the charm of our common, but it should not take a major accident or worse for us as a community to take this issue seriously.

Thank you,
Ann O'Sullivan
155 Millbury St.